

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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UNCLAS ROME 11451

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN, EAID, FAO WFP
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

1. FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA HAS SENT TO FAO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES THE FOLLOWING LETTER IN WHICH HE PROPOSES TO APPOINT GARSON N. VOGEL OF CANADA AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 1977. IN A SURPRISE, NICE GESTURE SAOUMA ALSO PROPOSES TO APPOINT THOMAS C. M. ROBINSON OF THE U.S. TO BE FULL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WFP DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS END SEPTEMBER 30, 1977. ROBINSON HAS BEEN SERVING AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AD INTERIM FOR THE PAST YEAR.

2. SAOUMA ASKS FOR GOVERNMENT REACTIONS BY AUGUST 10, 1977. THE SYG IN NEW YORK IS SENDING OUT SIMILAR PROPOSALS.

3. QUOTE. I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, WHICH WAS HELD BY MR. FRANCISCO AQUINO UNTIL THE EXPIRY OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE
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IN MAY 1976, AND IN AN AD INTERIM CAPACITY BY MR. THOMAS C. M. ROBINSON, FROM JUNE 1976 TO JUNE 1977.

QUOTE. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT MR. AQUINO HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN APPOINTED IN 1968 AND LATER EXTENDED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND MYSELF AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE THEN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD

FOOD PROGRAMME, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRAMME'S GENERAL REGULATION 14 (B). I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE MOST ABLE MANNER IN WHICH MR. AQUINO DISCHARGED THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS OFFICE.

QUOTE. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN, AT A PRIVATE MEETING, TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN ROME ON 28 APRIL 1976 THE REASONS FOR WHICH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND I DEEMED IT ADVISABLE TO DELAY THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR TO MR. AQUINO. WE WERE BOTH GRATIFIED BY THE UNDERSTANDING SHOWN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN AGREEING TO OUR PROPOSAL THAT MR. THOMAS C. M. ROBINSON, THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BE ASKED TO SERVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AD INTERIM PROVISIONALLY UNTIL 30 JUNE 1977.

QUOTE. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND I NOW PROPOSE TO APPOINT MR. GARSON NATHANIEL VOGEL OF CANADA AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR A NORMAL TERM OF OFFICE OF FIVE YEARS STARTING FROM 1 OCTOBER 1977. AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA LAW SCHOOL IN 1946, MR. VOGEL JOINED A WELL KNOWN GRAIN COMPANY OF WINNIPEG, WHERE HE WORKED ON GRAIN EXPORTS UNTIL 1959. FOR THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS HE WAS WITH THE GRAIN DIVISION OF THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE, AS CHIEF OF DIVISION FOR HIS LAST THREE YEARS THERE. LATER HE BECAME VICE-PRESIDENT OF ANOTHER CANADIAN GRAIN COMPANY UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD IN 1964. MR. VOGEL UNCLASSIFIED

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THEN BECAME ASSISTANT CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THAT BOARD IN 1967 AND CHIEF COMMISSIONER IN MARCH 1971. IN VIEW OF HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER, WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO BE CONVINCED THAT MR. VOGEL'S WIDE EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO GRAIN PRODUCTION AND TRADE, WOULD ENABLE HIM TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRAMME, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE GROWING RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO IT, ON THE BASIS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

QUOTE. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE NECESSARY CONTINUITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAMME, WE HAVE ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO REQUEST MR. ROBINSON TO ACCEPT TO POSTPONE THE DATE OF HIS RETIREMENT BY THREE MONTHS, FROM THE END OF JUNE 1977 TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER 1977 AND WE ARE GLAD TO SAY THAT HE HAS READILY AGREED. IN VIEW OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICES WHICH MR. ROBINSON HAS RENDERED TO THE PROGRAMME, IN PARTICULAR DURING THE PAST YEAR, WE HOPE, FURTHERMORE, THAT YOU WILL AGREE WITH US THAT IT WOULD BE FITTING TO APPOINT HIM FULL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME DURING THE LAST THREE MONTH PERIOD, INSTEAD OF MERELY EXTENDING HIS PRESENT CONTRACT AS PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A.I. AND WE,

THEREFORE, SEEK YOUR CONCURRENCE TO THIS.

QUOTE. I HOPE THESE PROPOSALS, WHICH ARE ALSO BEING COMMUNICATED
BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK,
WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. I SHOULD BE
GRATEFUL FOR AN INDICATION OF THE REACTION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT,
TO REACH ME NOT LATER THAN 10 AUGUST 1977.

QUOTE. PLEASE ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION.

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